

HAILEY'S ON IT!
"Trick or Traitor"
By Karen Graci
412S-206 Outline 7/28/23

EXT. ALLEY - CRIME SCENE - DAY

We see a crime scene that's been taped off, with a chalk outline on the ground. A POLICE OFFICER shows a suave LEAD DETECTIVE the clues left at the scene -- a MULTI-COLORED WIG, a HUGE SHOE, and a RED FOAM NOSE. POLICE OFFICER: "We got a witness. She was pretty scared, but our sketch artist says she got a good likeness." The Lead Detective glances at the sketch of a GOOFY CLOWN. LEAD DETECTIVE: "Looks like this criminal...wasn't **clowning** around." CUE loud <OPENING CREDITS STING> as the cool detective looks straight into camera. The image freezes. We PULL WIDE to reveal we're in...

INT. MR. WILLIAMS' CLASSROOM - DAY

ANGLE ON the students, who look confused. HAILEY: "Uh, Mr. Williams, should we be watching this?" Mr. Williams says yes, it's for science! Kinda. He explains that he used to watch this show ("Forensic Cold Case: C.S.V.U.L.M.N.O.P") everyday with his ex-girlfriend. She thought the lead detective was really cool. So the class has an assignment: work in pairs to use forensic science to figure out their own mysteries...and so that Mr. Williams can say a quippy one liner at the end of their presentations. Hailey's not sure about the legitimacy of the assignment, but she happily pairs up with SCOTT for the project.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Hailey wonders aloud what mysteries she and Scott should solve, but Scott has a singular focus: he tells Hailey that this is the perfect opportunity to reopen the cold case of who stole all his Halloween candy back in the third grade! Hailey immediately tenses up. Maybe it would be better to investigate what's in the mystery meat in the cafeteria? But Scott is hyper-focused on this mission and leaves to gather evidence.

Hailey panics and confesses to BETA that it was she who stole all of Scott's Halloween candy...

INT. HAILEY'S BEDROOM - FLASHBACK - SIX YEARS AGO

In V.O., Hailey describes what happened that fateful Halloween night as we see the action onscreen: After trick-or-treating, Hailey and Scott each enter Hailey's room with a sack of candy. They agree to store it all in Hailey's bedroom because they don't trust Becker (naturally). They're wiped from a long night, so they stash the bags under Hailey's bed and agree not to touch the rest until the next day. SCOTT: "First thing in the morning, we'll go through it all!" Then Scott leaves. Hailey decides to have a couple pieces of her own candy. HAILEY V.O.: "I was so hungry from all the trick or treating, so I just had one piece. But then one piece led to another, which lead to another, and before I knew it I woke up in a big pile of wrappers, with chocolate all over my face!" In the morning, Hailey wakes up to see that both bags of candy are now empty. HAILEY: "What have I done?!" She throws all the wrappers in the trash and wipes her face as Scott bounds through the window, ready to go through their candy. But Scott is horrified when he sees the empty wrappers. What happened?! HAILEY: It must have been...BURGLARS!" SCOTT: "Nooooo!" We freeze on Hailey's panicked face and...

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - AS WE WERE

Hailey's panicked face. She tells Beta that she was gonna tell Scott the truth, but was afraid he'd be mad and it'd ruin their friendship. So days went by, and then months and then years, and she's never had the courage to tell him the truth. Hailey tells Beta that she can't give up on the lie now; Scott will never forgive her! Beta says that Hailey's overthinking this. Scott will never figure it out. BETA: "I mean, that was six years ago and it's been pretty obvious this whole time that you did it. Plus, Scott's a buffoon. How much evidence could he possibly have?"

FLIP TO:

INT. SCOTT'S ROOM - LATER

Scott has a trove of evidence -- preserved candy wrappers, crime scene photos, and a list of possible suspects, all stored in bankers' boxes marked "EVIDENCE." Plus, he's fired up. SCOTT: "What kind of animal unwraps each piece of a kid's Halloween candy and then eats them one by one?!" Scott asks Hailey why she's not upset and she covers by saying she's still in shock...even six years later.

Scott is more determined than ever, and reveals that he gave some of the candy wrappers to KENNEDY in the AP chemistry lab for DNA testing. Hailey's worried -- DNA testing?! Scott seems pretty serious about this.

Scott shifts gears and wants to get every potential suspect's statement about that evening.

IN A SERIES OF QUICK CUTS, we see the suspects' responses:

--BECKER says she has a rock solid alibi; she was pranking other noobs on her annual Halloween "Night of Mischief."

--PATRICIA says it couldn't have been her. Everyone knows nougat gives her serious indigestion.

--KAI has proof he was out of town that Halloween but is bummed he missed out on the drama (and candy).

--TINA says she was home with her Grandma, who was really sick. SCOTT: "You always say that." TINA: "Yeah, but this time it was my other Grandma."

--AC says he wishes it was him, but Gretchen always tucks him in by 7pm.

--Even DWAYNE and JOHNSON are off the hook -- since they weren't born yet. SCOTT: "Likely story."

Scott sighs. Hailey suggests that maybe they should just give up and find another mystery to solve. But Scott says no -- this just means they have to try harder. Hailey shoots Beta a nervous look.

INT. SCOTT'S ROOM - DAY

Scott has made an evidence yarn wall and is trying to piece together all the clues. He says something's not adding up. Hailey's feeling more desperate: "Uh, maybe we're thinking about too much about humans as suspects and should be thinking more about...werewolves!" But Scott says he's way ahead of her, he already checked and there wasn't a full moon that night. Hailey slumps. Scott lays out all the crime scene photos he has and suggests they listen to the long-forgotten neighborhood watch audio recording from that night (like a 911 call, but to the neighborhood watch). They listen to it, and we hear an AUDIO CLIP of Scott's desperation, and Hailey saying it must have been burglars...but not much else. Scott is flummoxed. SCOTT: "Hmm. I'm gonna set up a tip line. Maybe someone has a lead and this all will start making sense." He leaves. Beta admits Scott is more focused than he's ever seen him;

Hailey better figure out something. That's when Hailey has an idea...

INT. SCOTT'S ROOM - DAY - A LITTLE LATER

Hailey bounds in, telling Scott that someone left a message on his tip line! It's a link to a security video taken from the night of the theft! Scott is thrilled. We then see a VIDEO CLIP of an over-the-top, twirling-mustache THIEF (clearly Hailey dressed like she's the Hamburgler) who comes out of Hailey's window. The thief then goes to the roof and eats candy very performatively, tosses the wrappers back into Hailey's bedroom, inexplicably does an awkward dance, and then tries to sneak away like a cat burglar -- but trips and falls into a rose bush. An oblivious Scott says, "Thank goodness someone had their camera directly pointed at your roof!" Hailey inconspicuously pulls some rose petals out of her hair. SCOTT: "I know what this must mean!" Hailey is excited, but then Scott notices a plant in the video that was planted this year. Which means this is a new video. "I know what's going on here...Someone is trying to throw us off the scent! That means we're getting close." A dejected Hailey leaves. That's when Scott takes a closer look at one of the crime scene photos of Hailey's room from the night of the crime. SCOTT: "A-ha! It was right in front of me the whole time!"

INT. HAILEY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Scott has gathered all the likely suspects (AC, Tina, Becker, and Hailey's family), as well as Mr. Williams, who's excited to be invited to anything these days. Scott says that the truth can't wait for 3rd period on Monday! He knows who stole all of his Halloween candy, and he has the evidence to prove it: a photograph, an audio recording of the culprit on the morning after the crime, and the DNA test he had run back at the lab.

Then Scott looks hard at a nervous Hailey and says everything points to one...possible...suspect. Hailey can't take the guilt anymore and finally confesses. She blurts out that it was her! **She** ate all of Scott's Halloween candy and she feels terrible about not telling him before! Surprisingly, Scott thanks Hailey for trying to take the blame, but she's actually been inadvertently covering for the real culprit this entire time...PATRICIA! Everyone is shocked.

We see a FLASHBACK OF WHAT REALLY HAPPENED that night, as Scott presents evidence in V.O., matching the action--

--Hailey came home late after trick or treating, ate a couple pieces of candy (as we saw earlier in Hailey's flashback), and fell asleep watching a movie.

--Patricia sees the movie on in Hailey's room (one of her favorites) and starts to watch. Then she sees the candy, can't help herself and eats all of it, before passing out next to Hailey. When the alarm goes off, Patricia wakes up immediately and sees all the wrappers and realizes how much she ate. As Hailey groggily wakes up and starts to rouse, Patricia darts into the closet, grabbing her gurgling stomach from all the nougat she ate.

Then -- just as we saw earlier -- Hailey wakes up and panics, she tosses the wrappers into the trash, wipes her face and then tells Scott it must have been burglars. SCOTT: "Nooooo!"

END OF FLASHBACK.

Scott tells the group that Patricia's sweet tooth made her do some crazy things that night. He shows the crime scene photo and in it, we can see Patricia's shoes peeking out of Hailey's closet. And then Scott replays the neighborhood watch recording with the sound isolated and enhanced. On it, we hear the same exchange between Hailey and Scott as before, but this time we can also hear Patricia's stomach growling! SCOTT: "And that's the sound of someone whose stomach can't handle nougat."

Scott then rips open an envelope with Kennedy's DNA results. SCOTT: "And if I'm right, this DNA evidence will confirm the culprit was...Patricia Banks!" Sure enough, her name is written on the paper.

All eyes are on Patricia, and she fesses up. She says yeah, she did that. In fact, she eats a lot of the kids' candy: the kids' Christmas candy, Easter candy, and even random birthday candy lying around. PATRICIA: "Consider it a mom tax. But I didn't realize it was also Scott's candy. So, I'm sorry." SCOTT: "Well, sorry's not good enough! You're...gonna...PAY!"

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY

And she does. With Hailey and Scott in tow, Patricia calmly pays \$20 for a bag of assorted candy to replace Scott's stash. Scott rejoices and Hailey is relieved. Justice is sweet! And we...

FADE OUT.